Investigation into investments made by UTI

†2875. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to get the investigation about the investments made by UTI in various institutions during last years, done by SEBI;

(b) if so, the details of the capital investments to be investigated; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the investigation; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In recommendation No. 252 contained in para 16.37, the JPC on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto recommended a thorough inquiry of secondary market transactions of UTI in the shares of 89 companies identified by the Tarapore Committee by SEBI.

The Government, in consultation with SEBI have referred 89 cases for inquiry by SEBI. No time frame has been fixed by SEBI to complete the inquiry.

North East Industrial Policy, 1997

2876. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced the North East Industrial Policy, 1997 for North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the relief granted to the industries so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the same relief has been withdrawn, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is a strong resentment amongst the people in the North East Region against this measure; and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy envisaged grant of concessions to new industrial units and units undertaking substantial expansion. These include investment subsidy, transport subsidy, interest subsidy, exemption from income tax and excise duty etc. In pursuance of this policy, Notification nos. 32/99-CE and 33/99-CE, both dated 8.7.99, were issued by Ministry of Finance. Notification No.32/99-CE provides exemption from excise duty to goods cleared from industrial units located in specified areas in the seven NE States. Similarly, notification No. 33/99-CE exempts goods cleared from specified industries in these States irrespective of their location.

(c) No, Sir. The benefit of excise duty exemption has been withdrawn only in respect of tobacco products including cigarettes, in view of reports of misuse of exemption.

(d) Several representations, including those from Chief Ministers and Members of Parliament, have been received for restoration of excise duty exemption to tobacco based industries and the matter is under examination.

Dearness Allowance

2877. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Dearness Allowance due for payment to the Central Government employees w.e.f. 1st July, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to release the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payablee with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The revised amount of DA will be notified at the appropriate time.